FUEL-BRIQUETTING AND PACKAGED-FUEL PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES THAT REPORTED PRODUCTION IN 1959

By Eugene T. Sheridan and Virginia C. Berté

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FUEL-BRIQUETTING AND PACKAGED-FUEL PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES THAT REPORTED PRODUCTION IN 1959 [1]

by

Eugene T. Sheridan [2] and Virginia C. Berté [3]

INTRODUCTION

This circular presents data on individual plants of the fuel-briquet and packaged-fuel industries that responded to the Bureau of Mines annual economic survey and reported production for 1959. The companies named herein represent virtually all producers of processed fuels of mineral origin. A few small companies may not have been canvassed or failed to respond, however, as some plants operate intermittently, and the survey is voluntary. No consideration was given to size of the plant and all plants that reported commercial production were included. Specifically excluded were plants that manufactured briquets from wood charcoal.

Fuel briquets and packaged fuel are manufactured solid fuels, fabricated from fine-sized mineral fuels by mixing with binders and compressing into small individual shapes. Briquets usually are produced as small, pillow-shaped pieces, 2 to 4 inches long, weighing 2 to 4 ounces. Packaged fuel consists of 3- to 4-inch cubes, 6 or 8 of which are wrapped in heavy kraft paper to form a package weighing 10 to 15 pounds. The overall size of a popular package is 10-1/2 x 7 x 3-1/2 inches. Briquets are durable, may be stored outdoors, and shipped and used as bulk fuel. Packaged fuel is fragile, and must be stored indoors to keep it from deteriorating. Whereas briquets are consumed in many areas as a general residential fuel, packaged fuel is more of a specialty item, used at times as a supplement to other fuels. Package fuel is burned without removing the paper and referred to as the "white-glove" fuel.

Machinery used by briquet manufacturers was made chiefly by Komarek-Greaves & Co., Chicago, Ill. Most packaged-fuel machinery was manufactured by C. M. Eberling Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

SUMMARY

The names and addresses of producers of fuel briquets and packaged fuel that reported production for 1959 are shown in table 1. Also shown is the location of individual plants and the kind of raw fuel used at each. Fifteen fuel-briquet plants and 21 packaged-fuel plants reported production for 1959. This was 1 less briquet plant and 2 less packaged-fuel plants than reported in 1958, and less than half the number of each type active in 1947-49. [4]

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[4] Base period for measuring trends.

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Fuel briquets were produced in 8 States. Wisconsin, with 6 operations, had the largest number of active plants and also the greatest production. Missouri and West Virginia followed with 2 operating plants each. Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and North Dakota each had 1 active plant. Pennsylvania ceased to produce briquets in 1959 as the American Briquet Co. abandoned its Lykens plant. This was the first year since 1907 that Pennsylvania had no active plants. North Dakota again became a producing State as the lignite plant in Dickinson resumed operations after being idle since 1957.

Packaged fuel was produced in 7 States. Ohio, with 7 operations, had the largest number of active plants, followed by Michigan with 5, and Indiana with 3. Minnesota and Virginia each had 2, and Illinois and Wisconsin had 1 plant each. Michigan had the largest production.

Both fuels were manufactured chiefly from low-volatile bituminous coal. Briquet plants also used petroleum coke, Pennsylvania anthracite, high-volatile bituminous coal, lignite char, semianthracite, bituminous coke, and other anthracite. A small quantity of packaged fuel was made from petroleum coke.

The relative size of the two industries is shown in table 2. Although having fewer operating plants, the fuel-briquet industry is by far the larger, having an annual productive capacity in 1959 of 2,955,500 net tons, compared to 138,100 net tons for packaged fuel. All briquet plants had an annual capacity in excess of 25,000 tons. Only 1 packaged-fuel plant had a capacity greater than 25,000 tons. The rate of operation of the briquet industry was also substantially higher. Both industries operated at relatively low rates, however, with production-capacity ratios of 29.3 percent for briquets and 24.4 percent for packaged fuel.

The Berwind Fuel Co., Chicago, Ill., was the largest producer of briquets. This company operated plants at Superior, Wis., and Berwind, W. Va., each with annual capacities greater than 400,000 tons. These plants are reported to be the world's largest briquet plants. The Johnson Coal Cubing Co., Inc., Detroit, Mich., was the largest producer of packaged fuel.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The information used in this publication was obtained from annual reports voluntarily submitted by fuel-briquet- and packaged-fuel-plant operators in the United States. Their cooperation is deeply appreciated by the Bureau of Mines.

TABLE 1. - Fuel-briquetting and packaged-fuel plants in the United States that reported production in 1959

Operator	Address	Location of plant	Raw fuel used
FUEL-BRIQUETTING PLANTS			
ARKANSAS			
Arko Briquettes, Inc.	Post Office Box 151 Fort Smith, Ark.	Fort Smith	Semianthracite.
ILLINOIS			
Coal Processing Corp.	360 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago 6, Ill.	Buckner	Bituminous.
INDIANA			
Chicago Briquet Co., Inc.	300 Riley Rd. East Chicago, Ind.	East Chicago	Bituminous and petroleum coke.
MICHIGAN			
Johnson Coal Cubing Co., Inc. ..	9309 Hubbell Ave. Detroit 28, Mich.	Detroit	Do.
MISSOURI			
St. Louis Carbon Co.	20 South Central Clayton 5, Mo.	St. Louis	Bituminous, petroleum coke, and by-product coke.
Truax-Traer Coal Co.	111 North Wabash Ave. Chicago 2, Ill.	Kansas City	Anthracite (other than Pennsylvania), semianthracite, and petroleum coke.
NORTH DAKOTA			
Husky Oil Co.	Post Office Box 380 Cody, Wyo.	Dickinson	Lignite and lignite char.
WEST VIRGINIA			
Berwind Fuel Co.	141 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago 4, Ill.	Berwind	Bituminous.
Raleigh Wyoming Mining Co.	360 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago 6, Ill.	Glen Rogers	Do.
WISCONSIN			
Berwind Fuel Co.	141 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago 4, Ill.	Superior	Bituminous and Pennsylvania anthracite.
North Western-Hanna Fuel Co. ...	2150 North Prospect Ave. Milwaukee, Wis.	Milwaukee	Bituminous, Pennsylvania anthracite, and petroleum coke.
The C. Reiss Coal Co.	Reiss Bldg. Sheboygan, Wis.	Ashland	Bituminous and petroleum coke.
		Green Bay	Bituminous, Pennsylvania anthracite, and petroleum coke.
		Milwaukee	Bituminous, Pennsylvania anthracite, petroleum coke, and bituminous coke.
Stott Briquet Co., Inc.	2200 University Ave. St. Paul 14, Minn.	Superior	Bituminous, Pennsylvania anthracite, and petroleum coke.

TABLE 1. - Fuel-briquetting and packaged-fuel plants in the United States that reported production in 1959 (Con.)

Operator	Address	Location of plant	Raw fuel used
PACKAGED-FUEL PLANTS			
ILLINOIS			
Harrington-McKinstra	Benton & Washington Sts. Freeport, Ill.	Freeport	Bituminous.
INDIANA			
Superior Fuel Co.	919 Wells St. Fort Wayne 7, Ind.	Fort Wayne	Do.
Ullery Fuel & Supply Co.	319 South St. Peter St. South Bend, Ind.	South Bend	Do.
Walton Coal & Oil Co.	1506 South Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne 4, Ind.	Fort Wayne	Do.
MICHIGAN			
Blaess Coal Co.	124 West Summit St. Ann Arbor, Mich.	Ann Arbor	Do.
Johnson Coal Cubing Co., Inc. ..	9309 Hubbell Ave. Detroit 28, Mich.	Detroit	Do.
K. & K. Coal & Supply Co.	212 Smith St. Monroe, Mich.	Monroe	Do.
Legion Oil & Coal Co.	1021 West Front St. Monroe, Mich.	do.	Do.
Matthes Coal Co.	404 Dean St. Adrian, Mich.	Adrian	Do.
MINNESOTA			
Minneapolis Coal Co.	74 Lowry Ave., North Minneapolis 12, Minn.	Minneapolis	Bituminous and petroleum coke.
Simonson Cashway Co.	St. Cloud, Minn.	St. Cloud	Bituminous.
OHIO			
Ackerman Coal Co.	1202 Lagrange St. Toledo, Ohio	Toledo	Do.
Air City Fuels, Inc.	1287 Air City Ave. Dayton 4, Ohio	Dayton	Do.
Bartak Coal Co.	5381 Dunham Rd. Maple Heights, Ohio	Maple Heights	Do.
Moelder Coal Co.	Chickering Ave. Cincinnati 32, Ohio	Cincinnati	Do.
Pacific Coal & Supply, Inc.	6319 Kinsman Ave. Cleveland, Ohio	Cleveland	Do.
Ralph Coal Co.	873 Western Ave. Toledo, Ohio	Toledo	Do.
Whitehouse Coal & Supply Co. ...	8710 Broadway Cleveland 5, Ohio	Cleveland	Do.
VIRGINIA			
Superior Coal & Paper Corp.	1543 East Princess Anne Rd. Norfolk, Va.	Norfolk	Do.
Wright Coal & Oil Co., Inc.	1019 West 41st St. Norfolk 9, Va.	Norfolk	Do.
WISCONSIN			
The C. Reiss Coal Co.	Reiss Bldg. Sheboygan, Wis.	Green Bay	Do.

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TABLE 2. - Annual capacity and production of fuel-briquetting and packaged-fuel plants in the United States, 1955-59

	Active plants	Annual capacity (net tons)	Production	
			Net tons	Percent of capacity
FUEL BRIQUETS				
1955	23	3,841,000	1,629,542	42.4
1956	21	3,716,000	1,518,540	40.9
1957	17	3,088,000	1,104,781	35.8
1958	16	3,018,000	1,035,261	34.3
1959:				
Plants with capacity of -				
Less than 25,000 tons	....	....	....	....
25,000 to less than 100,000 tons	5	248,000	89,691	36.2
100,000 to less than 200,000 tons	4	447,500	205,577	45.9
200,000 to less than 400,000 tons	3	760,000	142,694	18.8
400,000 or more tons	3	1,500,000	428,158	28.5
Total	15	2,955,500	866,120	29.3
Plants with production of -				
Less than 5,000 tons	1	1,100,000	341,449	31.0
5,000 to less than 10,000 tons	1	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
10,000 to less than 25,000 tons	4	396,000	77,864	19.7
25,000 to less than 100,000 tons	7	1,459,500	446,807	30.6
100,000 or more tons	2	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Total	15	2,955,500	866,120	29.3
PACKAGED FUEL				
1955	31	198,400	69,212	34.9
1956	26	174,600	64,960	37.2
1957	23	150,200	47,287	31.5
1958	23	141,800	35,769	25.2
1959:				
Plants with capacity of -				
Less than 5,000 tons	15	32,300	5,072	15.7
5,000 to less than 10,000 tons	2	13,800	1,576	11.4
10,000 to less than 15,000 tons	2	2/ 92,000	2/ 27,067	2/ 29.4
15,000 to less than 25,000 tons	1			
25,000 or more tons	1			
Total	21	138,100	33,715	24.4
Plants with production of -				
Less than 1,000 tons	16	40,100	5,613	14.0
1,000 to less than 3,000 tons	2	16,000	2,715	17.0
3,000 to less than 5,000 tons	1	2/ 82,000	2/ 25,387	2/ 31.0
5,000 to less than 10,000 tons	1			
10,000 or more tons	1			
Total	21	138,100	33,715	24.4

1/ Included with "Less than 5,000 tons" to avoid disclosing individual company figures.

2/ Combined to avoid disclosing individual company figures.

[illegible]